

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8025

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 2806

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT DA

SUBJECT: FORMATION OF NEW DEMOCRATIC CENTER PARTY.

REF: COPENHAGEN 2783, 2793

SUMMARY: FALL OF ANKER JORGENSEN'S GOVERNMENT WAS
TRIGGERED BY FOUNDING ON NOVEMBER 7 OF NEW DEMOCRATIC
CENTER PARTY (DCP) BY RIGHT-WING SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC MP
ERHARD JAKOBSEN. PARTY IS BASICALLY SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC
IN OUTLOOK, APPEALING TO MIDDLE CLASS VOTERS IN
POLITICAL CENTER. FOREIGN POLICY PLATFORM IS PRO-EC.
FAVORING ACCELERATED EUROPEAN POLITICAL AND DEFENSE
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INTEGRATION, AND PRO-NATO, ADVOCATING INCREASED DANISH

DEFENSE BUDGET AND GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. ECONOMIC PROGRAM SEEMS IN GENERAL BASED ON DEMAGOGIC APPEAL TO PRIVATE HOME AND AUTOMOBILE OWNERS. PRIMIN'S CALL FOR IMMEDIATE ELECTIONS- WHICH COULD WELL PREVENT DCP FROM GAINING PLACE ON BALLOT - INDICATES THAT ESTABLISHED SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (SDP) CONSIDERS NEW SPLINTER PARTY A SIGNIFICANT THREAT. END SUMMARY.

1. NEW SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC SPLINTER PARTY (DCP) WAS OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED AT CHRISTIANSBORG NOVEMBER 7, SHORTLY AFTER JAKOBSEN WAS EXCLUDED FROM SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARLIAMENTARY GROUP. AT PRESS CONFERENCE IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER, JAKOBSEN PRESENTED DCP DRAFT PROGRAM AND INTRODUCED PARTY'S EXECUTIVE BOARD. AMONG LATTER WERE SEVERAL PROMINENT SDP MEMBERS DISSATISFIED WITH OLD PARTY. OF THIRTY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS, TWENTY WERE PREVIOUSLY SOCIAL DEMOCRATES, BUT FORMER CONSERVATIVES, MODERATE LIBERALS AND CHRISTIAN PEOPLES PARTY MEMBERS ARE ALSO REPRESENTED.

2. PARTY'S ECONOMIC PROGRAM APPEALS IN FRIST INSTANCE TO PRIVATE HOUSE OWNERS AND SMALL BUSINESSMEN. TAXES ON PRIVATE HOMES AND AUTOMOBILES WOULD BE REDUCED AND TAXES ON PRODUCTIVE AGRICULTURAL LAND TOTALLY ABOLISHED. TO REPLACE LOSS IN GOVERNMENT REVENUE, PLATFORM ADVOCATES INCREASE IN VAT TAX, IF NECSSARY UP TO TWENTY-FIVE PER CENT.

3. IN FOREIGN POLICY AREA, PLATFORM IS STRONGLY POSITIVE TOWARD COMMON MARKET AND EUROPENA INTEGRATION, INCLUDING, PERHAPS, A EUROPEAN DEFENSE FORCE. PLATFORM CALLS FOR "BETTER RELATIONS WITH OUR NATO ALLIES, ESPECIALLY THE UNITED STATES", AND CONDEMNS SDP TENDENCY TO CRITICIZE LESS DEMOCRATIC NATO ALLIES. IT ADVOCATES INCREASE IN DEFENSE BUDGET, IMPROVED DANISH DEFESNE FORCES, AND CALLS FOR DUE RESPECT TO BE SHOWN MEMBERS OF THE LATTER.

4. REFLECTING FACT THAT NEW PARTY IS BUILT LARGELY ON JAKOBSEN'S WATCH-DOG COMMITTEE TO MONITOR CONFIDENTIAL

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RADICALISM IN DANISH MEDIA, PLATFORM CONTAINS SPECIAL SECTION PROMISING STRICT CONTROL OF RADIO AND TV PROGRAMMING TO INSURE POLITICAL OBJECTIVITY.

5. JAKOBSEN'S DCP, WHILE STILL ESSTNEITALLY ONE-MAN SHOW, COULD HAVE CONSIDERABLE POTENTIAL VOTER APPEAL. A BORSEN POLL TAKEN IN MID-OCTOBER INDICATED SUCH A NEW PARTY COULD COUNT ON SEVEN PER CENT OF TOTAL

VOTES CAST, GIVING 13 TO 14 SEATS IN PARLIAMENT. POLITICAL OBSERVERS DISCOUNT THIS FIGURE SOMEWHAT BUT GRANT DCP POTENTIAL OF FIVE TO TEN SEATS. POLL ALSO INDICATED THAT NEW PARTY WOULD ATTRACT MOST OF ITS SUPPORTERS FROM SDP AND GLISTRUP'S ANTI-TAX PROGRESSIVE PARTY, WITH LESSER APPEAL TO CONSERVATIVES AND MODERATE LIBERALS. POLL SHOWED PARTY STRENGTH TO LIE PRIMARILY IN COPENHAGEN SUBURBS, REFLECTING JAKOBSEN'S PERSONAL POPULARITY IN GLADSAXE CONSTITUENCY.

6. JAKOBSEN INITIALLY DEFENDED HIS DEFECTION FROM SOCIAL DEMOCRATS BY CLAIMING HE WOULD BE LOYAL TO SDP PLATFORM ON WHICH HE ORIGINALLY ELECTED UNTIL NEW ELECTIONS WERE CALLED. HE ADMITTED, HOWEVER, HE WOULD NOT SUPPORT SDP HOUSING BILLS NOR ITS PROPOSAL ON ECONOMIC DEMOCRACY. MOST IMPRESSIVE INDICATOR OF DCP POTENTIAL THREAT TO ESTABLISHED PARTIES, PARTICULARLY SDP, IS FACT THAT PRIMIN JORGENSEN FELT IT NECESSARY TO TAKE DRASTIC STEP OF CALLING IMMEDIATE ELECTIONS. SDP EVIDENTLY HOPES THEREBY TO PREVENT JAKOBSEN'S PARTY FROM QUALIFYING FOR PARTICIPATION IN ELECTION (19,000 SIGNATURES MUST BE SUBMITTED BEFORE NOVEMBER 20 TO OBTAIN PLACE ON BALLOT).

7. BIO DATA: ERHARD VILLIAM JAKOBSEN (ALSO SPELLED JACOBSEN) WAS BORN FEBRUARY 25, 1917 AT GRENE, SON OF A BRICKLAYER. HE WAS ACTIVE IN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS FROM 1931 TO 1943 AND SERVED AS CHAIRMAN OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC STUDENT ASSOCIATION FRIT FORUM FROM 1943 TO 1951. AFTER TAKING POLITICAL SCIENCE DEGREE FROM COPENHAGEN UNIVERSITY, HE WAS EMPLOYED IN NATIONAL TAX ADMINISTRATION FROM 1946-62. HE HAS BEEN MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT SINCE 1953, MAYOR OF GLADSAXE
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SINCE 1958, CHAIRMAN OF EUROPEAN MOVEMENT IN DENMARK FROM 1964 AND MEMBER OF COUNCIL OF EUROPE 1964-70.
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